

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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R 131737Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3645
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 20773

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP EG ET UR
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS AND GOE VIEWS
- ABOUT FACTIONS IN DIRG

SUMMARY: PARTICIPATION OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION IN ETHIO-
PIAN REVOLUTION CELEBRATIONS PROVIDES EVIDENCE OF THAW
IN EGYPTIAN/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS. ACTING DIRECTOR MFA
AFRICA DEPT. TOLD US DELEGATION MAY VISIT DJIBOUTI FOL-
LOWING FOUR DAY STAY IN ADDIS ABABA. HE ALSO
PROVIDED PERSONAL ANALYSIS OF ETHIOPIAN INTERNAL SITUATION:
HE CONSIDERED DIRG AS SPLIT INTO TWO FACTIONS, ONE LED BY
MENGISTU DESIRING FULL INTEGRATION OF ERITREA INTO
ETHIOPIA, THE OTHER SEEKING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AS
PART OF A SOVIET GRAND DESIGN FOR CONFEDERATION OF AREA
STATES. END SUMMARY.

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1. EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPER AL AKHBAR RECENTLY CARRIED ANNOUNCE-
MENT THAT OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN DELEGATION LED BY MFA UNDER-
SECRETARY AMBASSADOR AHMED TEWFIK IS ATTENDING THE FOURTH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION. AR-
TICLE NOTES THIS IS THE FIRST VISIT BY AN EGYPTIAN DELE-
GATION TO ETHIOPIA, AND COMMENTS THAT IT CONSTITUTES
CHANGE IN EGYPTIAN POLICY TOWARD ETHIOPIA SINCE FALL OF

HAILE SELASSIE REGIME.

2. ACTING DIRECTOR MFA AFRICAN DEPARTMENT EMAD EL KADI ON SEPT 12 CONFIRMED THIS INFORMATION TO EMBOFFS, AND ADDED THAT GOE DELEGATION IN ADDIS MIGHT VISIT DJIBOUTI AFTER COMPLETING ITS FOUR DAY STAY IN ETHIOPIA. (MINSTATE FORNAFF BOUTROS GHALI EARLIER TOLD CHARGE THAT HE WOULD HAVE HEADED DELEGATION HAD HE NOT BEEN NEEDED AT CAMP DAVID.)

3. KADI ALSO OFFERED INTERESTING ANALYSIS OF INTERNAL ETHIOPIAN SITUATION, WHICH MAY HAVE REPRESENTED HIS OWN VIEWS AS MUCH AS THOSE OF EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. HE SAID TWO BASIC FACTIONS ARE COMPETING WITHIN DIRG. THE ONE, LED BY MENGISTU, CONTINUES TO VIEW ERITREA AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ETHIOPIA, AND ADVOCATES A MILITARY SOLUTION. THE OTHER FAVORS A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, IN WHICH ERITREA BECOMES PART OF A CONFEDERATION OF AREA STATES. THE CONFEDERATION WOULD INCLUDE ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, DJIBOUTI, PDRY, AND AT A LATER DATE, SOMALIA. KADI CHARACTERIZED SUCH A CONFEDERATION AS THE SOVIET "GRAND DESIGN" FOR THE AREA; IT WAS WHY THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS WERE MINIMIZING THEIR ACTIVE COMBAT ROLE IN ERITREA AND WERE ADVOCATING WITHIN DIRG AN APPROACH EMPHASIZING NEGOTIATIONS. KADI LINKED FORMATION OF THE UNITED WORKERS PARTY, MODELED ON MARXIST-DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES, CONFIDENTIAL

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TO PRO-SOVIET FACTION. HE SAID MENGISTU WAS OPPOSED TO THE FORMATION OF SUCH A PARTY SINCE IT WOULD PROVIDE A PRO-SOVIET CIVILIAN POLITICAL BASE OF OPPOSITION TO HIM.

4. KADI ADDED THE SIDELIGHT THAT EPLF HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION FROM GOE TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICIAL OFFICE IN CAIRO. (WHILE ELF ALREADY HAS AN OFFICIAL OFFICE, EPLF IS NOW REPRESENTED BY UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE.) KADI SAID HE THOUGHT EPLF REQUEST WOULD NOT BE GRANTED SINCE GOE CONTINUED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT MARXIST COLORATION OF EPLF. HE HIMSELF THOUGHT ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH AN OFFICE WAS NOT A BAD IDEA, FOR IT SOULD ALLOW GOE DIRECT LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO EPLF AND MIGHT POSSIBLY PROVIDE COUNTERBALANCE TO LIBYAN AND PDRY INFLUENCE.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THAT BOTH GHALI AND FONMIN KAMEL FAVOR IMPROVEMENT OF EGYPTIAN/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS, AND GOE PARTICIPATION IN REVOLUTION DAY CELEBRATION REFLECTS THIS VIEW. AT SAME TIME, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SADAT'S BASIC POSITION OF SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA AND ERITREA REMAINS UNCHANGED. MATTHEWS

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